



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak status in the sub-region

- ④ In Nepal, during the last quarter of 2010, there was a new HPAI outbreak at a commercial poultry farm in Chitwan District. The outbreak started on 25th October in a poultry farmhouse situated at village Mangalpur-3. There were 11,503 poultry at the time of outbreak and 66 reported dead. The remaining 11,437 birds were destroyed by the authorities by 30th October, after confirmation of H5 positive through rapid test on 27th October and then through real-time PCR test.
- ④ Early at the beginning of the year 2010, Nepal was reeling under many HPAI outbreaks in various districts. The first outbreak was reported in January 2010 at Ward No. 7, Gharipatan area of famous tourist town of Pokhara in Kaski district. Other districts which experienced the outbreak were Banke, Chitwan, Rupandehi, Dang, Kailali and Nawalparasi.
- ④ Besides 2.2 lineage of H5N1 virus experienced by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal in the sub - region, a further lineage (2.3.2), which was not previously detected in South Asia was recovered from Nepal in the earlier as well as the most recent outbreak.
- ④ Besides Nepal, no HPAI outbreak was reported from other countries in the region including Bangladesh and India between October and December, 2010. As re-occurrence of HPAI outbreak have generally been noticed during the winter months, especially in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, the countries have enhanced surveillance activities against HPAI, especially in vulnerable areas and in areas visited by migratory birds.

Inception workshop for EU funded HPED Programme in SAARC region

- ④ From 30th September to 1st October 2010, a two day inception workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka to launch the "Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED) in South Asia (SAARC Component)". Overall 27 delegates representing governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the workshop along with representatives from the SAARC Secretariat, FAO and OIE. The representatives from Afghanistan, India and Maldives could not attend the workshop due to conflicting commitments. This four year HPED programme will continue until the end of December 2013, with financial assistance from the European Union.
- ④ The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the strengthening and empowerment of SAARC member states in their ability to prevent, control and eradicate HPEDs including HPAI and SAARC agreed priority transboundary animal diseases (TADs), through improved veterinary and public health services and inter-sectoral collaboration on a regional basis. The SAARC secretariat along with the veterinary and public health sectors of countries in the region will be immediate beneficiaries of the project. However, the overall beneficiaries of the project will include the populations of Asia, Europe and the global community at large by preventing the emergence and spread of epidemics and pandemics due to HPEDs and the ongoing crisis of HPAI.
- ④ As per the programme agreement signed between FAO and SAARC, the Regional Support Unit (RSU) will oversee the implementation of the programme and it will be located within the FAO Sub-regional Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) based in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC) will also be based in the Sub-regional ECTAD Office. All other associated structures and mechanisms, such as the Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories (RLDLs), will be based in countries as agreed by SAARC Member States in 2005.
- ④ Mr. M.R. Mithrapala, Deputy Minister Livestock and Rural Community Development, Government of Sri Lanka was the chief guest at the inaugural session. In his address, he hoped that the workshop would be successful and have fruitful sessions to achieve its targets and objectives.
- ④ Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, FAO ECTAD-RAP gave the opening remarks and discussed the background of the project. He said "discussions for the GF-TADs framework, in collaboration with OIE and with support from WHO, started after the 2001 outbreak of FMD in the United Kingdom, followed by a swine flu outbreak in The Netherlands". Dr. Morzaria indicated that globally, it has been realized that all animal diseases need to be handled together under a common framework as opposed to dealing with each disease on an individual basis. He further stated that livestock was becoming an

Contents	Page No
④ HPAI outbreak status in the sub-region	1
④ Inception workshop for EU funded HPED Programme in SAARC region	1
④ FAO meeting at Delhi to organize High Level Meeting of SAARC countries	2
④ Participation in a workshop at FAO, HQ, Rome	3
④ Media sensitization workshops in Kolkata	3
④ Simulation workshop Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal, India	4
④ Foot and Mouth Disease - Progressive Control Pathway workshop at Kathmandu, Nepal	4
④ District level workshop in Comilla, Bangladesh	5
④ Upcoming events	6



Participants at EU funded HPED inception workshop at Colombo, Sri Lanka

important issue in the context of food and nutritional security. While discussing the GF-TADs framework, he explained that as animal diseases need to be controlled at source/at farm level/at grassroots level, they could not effectively be handled on country by country basis. Rather, a regional approach was required, necessitating increased regional cooperation. He also gave a background on the series of consultations which had taken place since 2003 to establish the concept of the RSU and regional cooperation in South Asia. He said "under the project the RSU and REC would be established and the SAARC RLDLs would be strengthened including a PPR laboratory in Bangladesh, a FMD laboratory in India and an HPAI laboratory in Pakistan". He further said that an estimated US\$20 million funding would be needed for five years to complete the project objectives. Currently only US\$ 6 million was available under the EU programme.

- ④ While making presentation on One World One Health (OWOH) during the technical session, Dr. Morzaria explained the priorities of the OWOH approach and said that (a) at country level it included a long term, improved disease control capacity, including the public health, animal health and food safety services based on good governance compliant with WHO-IHR and OIE standards; (b) at country and regional levels it included an establishment of short to medium term risk-based disease surveillance plans in humans and animals to identify diseases at source (hotspots, human-animal interface); and (c) at international level it included a medium to long term capacity enhancement to improve 'horizon scanning' to support countries to respond early and control infectious disease events for example through a network of Global Early Warning Systems (GLEWS). Dr. Morzaria concluded his presentation by stating that HPAI and EIDs were a complex problem and to deal with them a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-partnerships approach would be needed. He further said that to meet the global challenge, requiring global solutions and countries must build on HPAI

successes and lessons learned. Stakeholders' ownership will be important for the success of the OWOH approach along with support from international organizations like FAO, OIE, WHO, UNICEF, UNSIC and World Bank.

- ④ Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager ECTAD (SAARC) explained the salient features of the HPED programme and the draft work plan on the basis of expected results as mentioned in the programme document.
- ④ The participants identified needs for future activities under the broad concepts of regional cooperation, surveillance and laboratory protocols.

FAO meeting at Delhi from 26th-30th October to organize High Level Meeting of SAARC countries

- ④ A planning meeting of FAO officials from Headquarters, ECTAD-RAP, Bangkok and Sub-regional ECTAD, Kathmandu was held at New Delhi from 26th - 28th October to further discuss the organization of a High Level Meeting for SAARC countries in Bangkok in January 2011 to chalk out the plan for control of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the SAARC region.
- ④ The FAO officials worked on developing a draft roadmap for FMD control based on the concept of progressive control pathway (PCP). The PCP Stage definitions and Standards applied were those developed in October 2010 (FAO Consultative Group meeting). The officials were briefed on PCP application in other regions (West Eurasian countries) and an exercise undertaken to rapidly assess country PCP status, where countries are categorized from 0 to 5 stages based on set of activities and progress indicators.

Participation in a workshop on Challenges of Information Systems and Surveillance for major animal diseases and zoonoses, FAO HQ, Rome

- ④ Dr. Mohinder Oberoi was invited to participate in an International Workshop on "Challenges of National, Regional and Global Information Systems and Surveillance for major animal diseases and zoonoses". The workshop was held at FAO headquarters, Rome from 23rd -26th November, in which Dr. Oberoi made a presentation on animal health related surveillance and information system practiced in SAARC countries.
- ④ In his presentation, he underlined the emphasis for regional coordination mechanism for tackling the transboundary animal diseases in this sub-region. Currently there is no uniform data collection and compilation system in the SAARC countries. In most of the cases the field data is submitted manually to a central unit where it is digitized in spread sheets or TADInfo for compilation and communication. The veterinary services have limited capacity in epidemiological analysis and no uniform disease information system exists in the sub-region.
- ④ He informed the participants that a Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC) has been established within the Regional Support Unit (RSU) housed in FAO Nepal at Kathmandu under a new regional project entitled 'Regional cooperation programme on highly pathogenic and emerging diseases (HPED) in South Asia (SAARC Component)'. The REC will support knowledge and information sharing among the participating countries. The understanding of epidemiology of diseases in their socio-economic contexts with accurate disease reporting will be strengthened. Animal identification methods will be developed to support monitoring of diseases along the trade routes. An early warning network will be established contributing to improved strategies for control of HPAI and HPEDs in the region. Regional plans for the control of HPAI and HPEDs will be developed on sound epidemiological information and quantitative data on socio-economic impact of these diseases.
- ④ Dr. Mat Yamage, Chief Technical Advisor, AI Technical Unit, FAO, Bangladesh was also invited to the workshop to talk about the active surveillance system with SMS Gateway used for H5N1 HPAI surveillance in Bangladesh.

Media sensitization workshops in Kolkata, West Bengal, India

- ④ In 2010, a series of district level orientation/sensitization workshops for various stakeholders were conducted in the high risk cross-border corridors of Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In those workshops media persons were not adequately represented, therefore a few sensitization workshops for media (both print and electronic) were planned with an aim to explain them HPAI related key issues along with an understanding of the poultry sector, risks related with HPAI and its

outbreaks, sensitivities/issues involved during culling and also gamut of illegal trade in the high-risk corridors across the border(s). Two such workshops were organized in July, 2010 at Siliguri (Darjeeling district) and Berhampore (Murshidabad district) of West Bengal, in which over 110 journalists representing various print and electronic media from seven HPAI affected districts in the state were sensitized. The events were reported earlier in vol. 8 (June-July 2010).

- ④ A similar workshop (separately for print and electronic media) was organized in Kolkata on 6th and 7th December 2010, in which 55 journalists representing English and vernacular media were sensitized. The workshop was opened by Mr. Narayan Biswas, Minister for Animal Resources Development Department (ARDD). Mrs. Kalyani Sarkar, Secretary, ARDD and Mr. Niloy Ghosh, Secretary, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs were also present during the inaugural session.



Mr. Narayan Biswas, Minister for Animal Resources Development Department, Govt. of West Bengal, India speaking at Inaugural Session of Media Sensitization workshop at Kolkata on 6th December 2010

- ④ Since the participants on both days were different the workshops followed similar pattern of presentations and discussions. Dr. Mohinder Oberoi made presentations on the clinical picture of HPAI, situation of HPAI in South Asia and on One World One Health (OWOH) concept. Mr. Jagmeet Uppal made presentation on key issues related with risk communication and behaviour patterns of various stake holders for effective reporting of HPAI outbreaks and the key messages to be given to the stakeholders during the outbreak or otherwise. A brief history of past pandemics were also explained to them. Presentations were also made on behalf of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) on the policy and action plan of Government of India for the control of HPAI; and also by a Deputy Director, ARDD on the response of department to the

past HPAI outbreaks in West Bengal and the issues encountered. Media workshop(s) were organized with active contributions and collaboration of the DADF of Government of India, ARDD and Department of Information and Cultural Affairs of the West Bengal Government.

Simulation workshop Dakshin Dinajpur, West Bengal, India

- ④ A table top simulation workshop for prevention and control of cross-border HPAI infection was held at Balurghat, district headquarters of district Dakshin Dinajpur in West Bengal on 10th December, 2010. A similar workshop was held across the border in district Dinajpur in Bangladesh in September 2010. The objectives of the workshop were to examine the effectiveness and identify gaps (if any) of - (a) National plan documents to prevent the cross-border transmission of the diseases; (b) Legal and administrative approaches for successful prevention of HPAI through cross-border trade; (c) Current mechanism knowledge and information flow at cross-border amongst various agencies for pre-emptive action to prevent incursion of HPAI; and (d) Cross-border 'Standard Operating Procedures' under field situation
- ④ The workshop was attended by over 40 participants from various district level departments of the state government as well as central agencies like, customs and Border Security Force (BSF). The workshop examined the effectiveness and identified gaps of various practices adopted by the state and central agencies related to cross-border trade and manning



Participants at table top simulation workshop at Balurghat (Dakshin Dinajpur District), West Bengal, India

of the border, including information flow at cross border routes amongst various agencies for pre-emptive action to prevent incursion of HPAI.

Workshop in Nepal on Foot and Mouth Disease-Progressive Control Pathway



Dr. Prabhakar Pathak, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Govt. of Nepal speaking at inaugural session of FMD workshop in Kathmandu

- ④ On 17th December, 2010 at Kathmandu, a workshop on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) - Progressive Control Pathway (PCP) was organized under the "Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED) in South Asia", which is funded by European Union. About 40 personnel working with Department of Livestock Services (DLS) of the Government of Nepal participated in the workshop.
- ④ Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, explained the key elements of the Progressive Control Pathway, including progression and monitoring the achievements at 0-5 stages of PCP to declare the country free from FMD by the year 2020. He also explained the key outcomes at the end of every stage in the PCP. He informed the participants that under the PCP it is estimated that Nepal is currently at stage-1 as many parameters to reach the next stage has either partially been done or not been adhere to; however at the end of 2011 a regional assessment would be made for all the countries in South Asia.
- ④ On behalf of the Government of Nepal Dr. V. C. Jha from national FMD and TADs laboratory made the presentation stating the FMD status in the country. According to Dr. Jha around 21.8 million animals are susceptible to FMD in the country, as FMD is endemic in Nepal. He informed the participants that on an average about 937 FMD outbreaks were reported every year in Nepal and the maximum outbreaks were



Participants at group work during FMD workshop in Kathmandu

in central region. He further said that an estimated economic loss due to reduction in milk and meat production is around US\$ 66 million per year. Dr. Jha said that laboratory diagnosis/typing of FMD virus was started in 1965 with the help of WRL Pirbright, UK and so far typing of FMD virus has been done in 66 districts out of total 75 districts. In the afternoon participants were given group work on 'Movement and Surveillance strategy', 'Vaccination strategy' and on 'Future needs'. Later each group presented their recommendations and it was discussed among the participants.

District level workshop in Comilla, Bangladesh on advocacy, disease investigation, clinical symptoms and value chain mapping

- The Comilla district orientation/sensitization workshop on strengthening cross-border emergency preparedness and response mechanism for HPAI was held on 29th-30th December 2010 at Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD) campus. It was fifth such workshop in the series of the six planned workshops in Bangladesh. Earlier four similar workshops were held in districts Chapai Nawabganj, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat and Jessore. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services, Government of Bangladesh. The participants included representatives from local administration, department

of health, local media / press, NGOs, Police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and staffs (veterinarians and para-veterinarians) posted in the district. The Comilla workshop was attended by about 120 participants on the first day and about 50 technical participants on the second day.

- During the inaugural session Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager, FAO ECTAD (SAARC), Kathmandu informed the participants about the background, objectives of the workshop and expectations from them.
- The technical session began with presentation by Dr. Oberoi on clinical picture of HPAI and discussions on it. He explained that how HPAI could be recognized in the field through clinical signs and other general indicators of the disease. The presentation generated a lot of interest, especially among the non-technical participants and resulted to a healthy question - answer session. A *Bangla* version of the presentation was distributed to all the participants.
- HPAI clinical picture session was followed by a presentation by Mr. Jagmeet Uppal on orientation/sensitization of participants on key areas of advocacy interventions related with risk/outbreak communication for HPAI prevention and control. He explained the key areas of strategic communication and the principles of outbreak communication. He emphasized the creation of 'felt need' among the targeted participant groups for communication interventions /messages through sustained advocacy. He briefly explained about three pandemics of the last century and its impact on the then region. He further explained the need for preparing communities for any future disaster/pandemic (if any). He elaborated the need for the social and behaviour change in context with poultry rearing practices as well as related with general hygiene and sanitation. He also explained the factors related with 'constrains' and 'enablers' for behaviour change; importance of Knowledge, Attitude and Practice studies; and various participants group to be targeted for communication and advocacy interventions. The participants were given group work to discuss the prevention and control of 'animal to animal' and 'animal to human' transmission and the expected behaviour change through the interventions in prominent technical areas. Mr. Uppal facilitated the groups to understand the 'group work matrix'.



Technical participants at District level workshop in Comilla, Bangladesh on 30th December 2010



Participants working on communication group work matrix in Comilla, Bangladesh workshop on 29th December 2010

- ⊕ The second day of the workshops was mainly devoted to district presentations on overall status of poultry and its trade in the district; poultry value chain mapping; situation of the poultry markets and movements of poultry and training on disease investigation with group work. The District Livestock Officer (DLO), Comilla made a presentation on poultry rearing status in the district, status of market, movement of poultry in the district and interventions made to control the HPAI in the districts.
- ⊕ This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Oberoi on the key findings of poultry value chain mapping across the cross-border corridor (Comilla-Sonamura), poultry market profile and understanding of their linkages in cross border trade with India (in context with Comilla). He also emphasized the need for interventions in key areas for strengthening cross-border emergency preparedness for prevention and control of HPAI. He also talked about the findings of the market profile study conducted by the project in the district. The study presented findings on understanding of how poultry markets work in Comilla.
- ⊕ Dr. Oberoi also made a short presentation on the evolving HPAI situation in South Asia. He presented an animated depiction (developed by FAO) of probable sequence of re-assortment events leading to the influenza A-H1N1 virus. Participants were shown pictorial clinical signs and post mortem lesions of HPAI and its differences from Newcastle disease.

Following that he made a presentation on 'Animal disease investigation and value chain analysis' focusing on epidemiology, surveillance, reporting, etc. He also deliberated on technical guidance for disease investigation for veterinarians. All the presentations were followed by a question and answer session and discussions. Later the participants were divided into three groups to discuss three poultry disease outbreak scenarios to come up with their step by step line of action and diagnosis. Each group presented the group findings followed by a question and answer session and discussions. Finally, Dr. Oberoi pointed out the gaps which existed in participants' group work presentation and how those could be improved.

- ⊕ Along with the workshop the FAO-ECTAD team members also visited the Bibir Bazar border areas in Comilla district adjoining Sonamura border of Tripura state (India), which is a legal trade route between Bangladesh and India. The field trip helped the team members to understand the poultry value chain in the area as well as the gamut of cross-border trade.

Upcoming Events

- ⊕ District level workshop in Cox's bazaar Bangladesh on advocacy, disease investigation, clinical symptoms and value chain mapping, 2nd-3rd January 2011.
- ⊕ Country specific FMD - Progressive Control Pathway workshops in Bangladesh (5th January, 2011) and India (7th January, 2011).
- ⊕ High level regional consultation on the control of priority transboundary animal and other emerging infectious diseases in South Asia, 13th -14th January 2011, Bangkok.
- ⊕ EC sponsored technical meeting on HPED Networking, 18th -19th January 2011, Bangkok.
- ⊕ Media sensitization workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal, February 2011.
- ⊕ Regional meeting of ECTAD-RAP, February 2011.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

